

To the Chairman and Members of the Finedon Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my fifteenth Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Condition of Finedon.

There are 821 inhabited and 95 uninhabited houses in the town, and I estimate the population to be 4,105.

The number of births registered during the year was 75: 30 males and 45 females, giving a rate of 18.2 per 1000 per annum. The average rate for the past ten years being 28.3 per 1000 per annum.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 45, giving a rate of 10.9. The average rate for the past 10 years being 11.9 per 1000 per annum.

Thirteen deaths of children under one year of age were registered, giving an infantile death rate of 172 per 1000 births registered. The average for the past ten years being 139.6. This rate is still too high, but in considering it one must make allowances, four deaths being attributed to premature birth, in one case the child being certified as having lived 30 minutes.

Cancer caused three deaths, giving a rate of .7 per 1000 per annum.

Phthisis caused five deaths, giving a rate of 1.2 per 1000 per annum. This is a rate much higher than usual.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, other than Phthisis, caused four deaths, giving a rate of .9 per 1000 per annum. This is a very low rate.

There were no deaths from Zymotic Disease.

Two inquests were held during the year. In one case the death was found to be due to drowning, and in the other natural causes.

The ages at which the deaths occurred were as follows:—

Under one year,	One year and under five years,	Five years and under fifteen years,	Fifteen years and under twenty-five years,	Twenty-five years and under sixty-five years,	Sixty-five years and upwards,
13.	2.	4.	3.	12.	11.

During the early part of the year there was a good deal of sickness amongst the people, Influenza being the cause. I am glad to say no death was attributed to this disease, though its effect on the various sick benefit clubs in the town was disastrous.

Only three cases of notifiable disease was reported to me during the year, viz.: three cases of Scarlet Fever.

I reported to myself as Medical Officer of Health, from myself as Medical Officer to the Finedon District of the Wellingborough Union, three cases of Phthisis, two of which have died. In all the cases of Phthisis, steps were taken to prevent as far as possible the infection being spread. The rooms and bedding in the houses in which the fatal cases occurred being thoroughly disinfected.

A few cases of mild Chicken-pox occurred during the year.

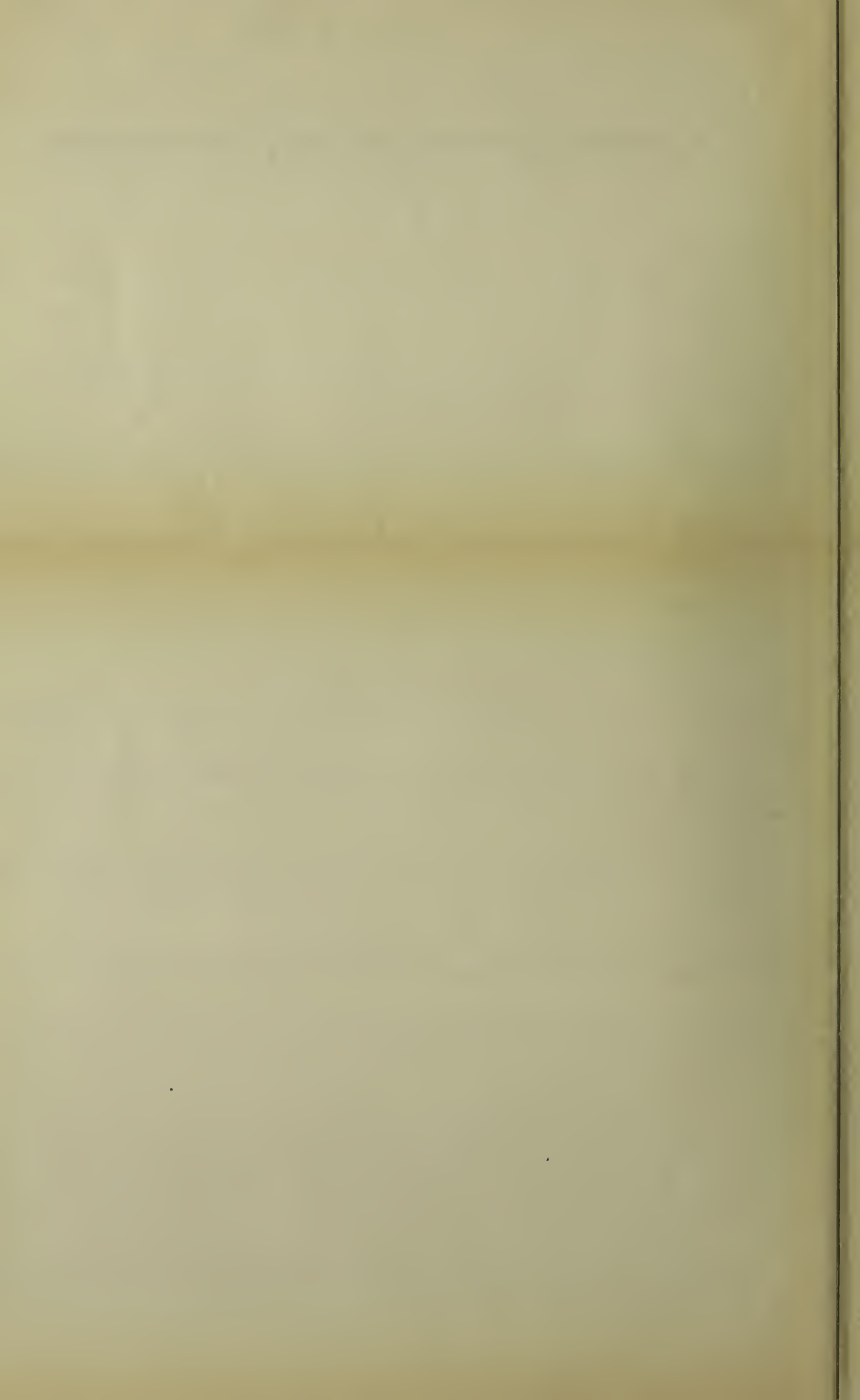
This year, like 1908, showed a marked decrease in the number of cases of Summer Diarrhoea amongst Infants, this being due to the cold wet summer and the consequent diminution in the number of houseflies.

I regret to report a large number of cases of Ringworm occurring amongst the children. Steps are taken to exclude all known cases from the Schools until cured. The treatment by X-rays is unfortunately not within the reach of the majority of the sufferers. This treatment is really the quickest and most sure cure.

The Lady Health Visitor has again done good work during the past year, and I think in most cases her visits have been welcomed.

The School Medical Officer has paid visits to the Schools in the town, and has sent cards notifying the various deviations from the normal to the parents of the children so suffering. There I believe his duty ends, and the parents' difficulty begins. Many of the cases are eye cases. Children suffering from defective vision or squint, and so needing glasses. Many parents profess to be unable to supply their children with them, or to be able to get expert opinion for their children. Then there is a rush for Hospital letters, which soon deplete the stores of such letters, private and public. Then another class of case causes us similar demand, viz., enlarged tonsils and adenoids. Parents again cannot afford to have the operations done at their own expense at home.

So it seems as if the Medical Inspection of School Children will not be of much use unless ways and means are found to carry out where needed the recommendations of the Inspecting Officer. In saying this I am speaking generally. As far as Finedon is concerned, I don't think there is so far much to complain of. I have done, or tried to get done, what has been necessary in most of the cases that have come under my notice.



The house accommodation has been adequate, and there have been no cases of overcrowding reported to me. No new houses have been built.

The Water Supply from the deep well throughout the year has been good and plentiful.

The Milk Supply, which is wholly local, has been good, and I have had no complaints as to the quality of the same.

The Dairies have been regularly inspected.

The Slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected, and it has not been found necessary to condemn any article of food exposed for sale.

The Sewerage and Drainage of the town is on the whole satisfactory. The sewers have been regularly flushed, and are now fairly well ventilated. I have had no complaint as to escape of sewer gas through the manholes.

I believe that the County Medical Officer of Health has not on all occasions been satisfied with the purity of the effluent from the Sewerage Farm. Steps have been taken to improve the same.

In the majority of houses the water closet system is in vogue.

I have had no complaints with regard to the removal of house refuse by the Council's men.

The Nuisance Inspector reports nuisances complained of and abated in connection with the following :—

Pigstyes	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Blockages in main sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ash heaps	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

He reports that he has disinfected nine houses.

It has not been necessary to close any department of the Schools during the year.

We have not as yet adopted the Notification of Phthisis. We have not any Hospital for the treatment and isolation of such cases, or of any form of infectious disease.

We have not as yet adopted the Notification of Births' Act.

The Midwives' Act comes into full force this next year. At present only one midwife is on the local register.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

The proper Lists of Outworkers have been received. The Factories, Workshops and Outworkers' premises have been inspected, and it has not been necessary to make any report to H.M. Inspector of Factories, or to take any legal steps to enforce the Act. Only one case of accident has been reported during the year.

The Bakehouses have been regularly inspected.

I think, Gentlemen, that taken as a whole you will not consider this an unsatisfactory Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. BURLAND,

Medical Officer of Health.

